

NEWS RELEASE

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Playgroup NSW receives a game-changing Start Strong Pathways grant

The NSW Government has announced \$16 million in funding for the littlest learners of NSW, to better prepare children for preschool and to promote the importance of early childhood education to parents across the State. Minister for Early Childhood Education, the Hon. Sarah Mitchell confirmed that “Many families already engage with fantastic organisations like playgroups, so we want to better resource them so more families can benefit from them. Not only will engaging with these play-based services benefit children too young for preschool, it will also give parents a chance to come together to learn about early childhood education in NSW.”



Playgroup NSW has been awarded \$1.754 million of Start Strong Pathways funding over two years, to establish *Play Strong* supported playgroups across the state. These playgroups will provide early learning pathways for vulnerable communities, and promote the importance of early childhood education.

As the peak body representing playgroups across NSW, Playgroup NSW has 26,000 members in over 80% of NSW postcodes. Programs and services centre around play and are universally beneficial for communities, carers and children from a range of backgrounds. “Playgroup NSW welcomes the



opportunity to increase participation and to make playgroups more accessible to vulnerable families across NSW”, Nadene Lee, CEO, Playgroup NSW said. “As part of Play Strong, Playgroup NSW has commenced expanding connections with early education providers and building heightened levels of awareness of the high-quality learning opportunity that early childhood services, including playgroups, provide for children from birth”.

Research shows that children who attend playgroup during early childhood have significantly better outcomes when they start school than those who do not, and Playgroup NSW continues to advocate for playgroup participation to be a core component of a government policy framework for children aged 0-5 years.

About Playgroup NSW:

As the peak body representing playgroups across NSW, Playgroup NSW is part of a national federation that leads in engaging families and communities in early childhood development. For over 45 years Playgroup NSW has supported children and families to come together for playgroups and other activities that promote early childhood development and build connections between families and in communities. Playgroup NSW’s vision is that playgroups are accessible to all families with children 0-5 in NSW, resulting in enhanced development, wellbeing and support for carers and children; and thriving communities.

Follow Playgroup NSW on [LinkedIn](#) for updates and information on upcoming initiatives and programs

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